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Missionary Work

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LOCAL DOCTOR TO JOIN MISSION IN ABYSSINIA

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Gilmor Family to Sail for Sayo Station, 3,000 Miles Up the Nile

Dr and Mrs Paul E Gilmor and their two children, Emerson and Jimmie, will leave Pittsburg in a few days on their way to Sayo, Abyssinia, Africa, where they will engage in medical work of the American mission. They will sail from New York Thursday on the Patria. They go to Naples, thence to Alexandria, Egypt, by steamer. They will have accomplished nearly one-half of their journey upon arriving in Egypt. They will travel via Cairo and Khartum approximately 3,000 miles up the Nile and its tributaries to Abyssinia.

The United Presbyterian Church of North America has for many years had mission stations in Egypt, India and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. In 1919 Dr Tom A Lambie and family, now visiting in Pittsburgfi entered Abyssinia and established a station at the town of Sayo, located in the western part of Abyssinia, on the plateau, at an elevation of 6,000 feet above sea level. On account of the high location it has a moderate tropical climate, although within 10 degrees of the equator. The town has a population of about 2,500.

"The people of that part are not typical Negroes of Central Africa," said Dr Gilmor, "but are lighter in color, being of a dark brown, and do not have the flattened noses and thick lips. They are of a higher stage of civilization and are more eager for advancement than the sluggish natives of the hot climates. However, the ills and physical misfortunes of the Abyssinians are much of the same as those of other parts of Africa. Most of the common tropical diseases are found there.

"Abyssinia is a country of 12,000,000 people, gathered in small towns, there being no large centers of population," continued Dr Gilmor. "In area it is several times larger than Pennsylvania. In all this territory, and with all these people, there are not more than seven doctors who are qualified to practice medicine and surgery. The native method of treating diseases is by means of sorcery and witchcraft. All the qualified doctors who treat with medicines are located in the capital city, Adis Ababa, except those at the American mission station of Sayo. Naturally as a result of this situation I will have little competition," said the speaker, "as Adis Ababa is one month's journey overland from Sayo. In a westerly direction there is one doctor about 400 miles away, and it is not known how far the other doctor is in the opposite direction."

The Gilmors returned to America about two years ago from a similar work in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, having been located within 500 miles of the place to which they are now going. While in America Dr Gilmor has been engaged in medical work at Lakside Hospital, Cleveland, and at Canton, Ohio.

Both Dr and Mrs Gilmor are of the Pittsburg vicinity. Mrs Gilmor, before her marriage, was Miss Esther McCracken, daughter of Mr and Mrs W J McCracken of Murrayhill avenue. She was graduated from the Thurston Preparatory School and later was a student at the Pennsylvania College for Women. Dr Gilmor is a graduate of Washington and Jefferson College and a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He was graduated from the Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland. He spent a year's service as interne in Mercy Hospital of this city.

At present there are no other missionaries leaving America for parts to which the Gilmors are going; but as soon as arrangements can be completed, Miss Isabel Blair of Washington, Pa, and Miss Effie Miner of San Diego, Cal, will leave for Abyssinia, to be located either at Sayo or at a new station soon to be established at a town named Gore, near Sayo. It is expected that Misses Blair and Miner will be ready to sail from New York about July 23.